

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
4234 Crow Rock Road
Frederick County, MD
Ca. 1850
Access: Private

ADDENDUM TO 1992 MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

The cultural landscape of the Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead remains remarkably unchanged from its 19th to early 20th century occupation. Along the hill rising behind (north) of the house are a series of linear fields running horizontally across the hillside, two are separated by a crude stone wall. Still under active cultivation in alternating fields of corn and hay, these fields demonstrate the technology of hillside farming. To the east stands a woodlot, a necessary component of all 19th century farms, and continued necessary on this hill farm as no plumbing or mechanical heating was ever installed in the main house, even through its 20th century occupation. Within the woodlot farther east, now outside of the farmstead's boundaries but originally part of the farm, was the apple orchard. The farmstead retains its original log farmhouse and log smokehouse, a frame privy, stone springhouse, a hog shed, chicken house and feed shed, blacksmith shop, wagon shed and garage, a timber frame wagon shed/corncrib and large bank barn (now on a separate parcel).

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead operated as a market farm throughout its 100-year occupation. Corn and hay were produced primarily as fodder for the livestock on the farm. While the horses served as the sole power on the farmstead until 1961, a small number of cows were kept for butter and milk. Apples from the orchard were reportedly taken to a cider press in the nearby hillside town of Ellerton. Hogs were kept in the frame hog pen and in a pen created within the

F-4-41

Shelter Rock, locally known as Hog Rock for that reason. Cider, butter, milk, eggs, chickens, garden produce, and butchered hogs provided the primary cash products of this small farm.

These products were carried to the Frederick market and sold.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-49

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead (preferred)	(MIHP update of 1992 form)
other	Shelter Rock Farm	

2. Location

street and number	4234 Crow Rock Road	not for publication
city, town	Myersville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vicinity
county	Maryland	

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Spenser O. and Nancy Geasey	(Henry V. Chase, Jr., parcel 266, barn)
street and number	4302 Crow Rock Road	telephone 301-293-2708
city, town	Myersville	state MD zip code 21773

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Frederick County Courthouse	liber 1190	folio 873
city, town	Frederick	tax map 38	tax parcel 18; 266 (barn) tax ID number N/A

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing Resource in National Register District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recorded by HABS/HAER
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: MHT Historic Sites Inventory (1992)

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	10
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	10
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			10

7. Description

Inventory No. F-4-49

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

ADDENDUM TO 1992 MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

The cultural landscape of the Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead remains remarkably unchanged from its 19th to early 20th century occupation. Along the hill rising behind (north) of the house are a series of linear fields running horizontally across the hillside, two are separated by a crude stone wall. Still under active cultivation in alternating fields of corn and hay, these fields demonstrate the technology of hillside farming. To the east stands a woodlot, a necessary component of all 19th century farms, and continued necessary on this hill farm as no plumbing or mechanical heating was ever installed in the main house, even through its 20th century occupation. Within the woodlot farther east, now outside of the farmstead's boundaries but originally part of the farm, was the apple orchard.

The farmstead retains its original log farmhouse and log smokehouse, a frame privy, stone springhouse, a hog shed, chicken house and feed shed, blacksmith shop, wagon shed and garage, a timber frame wagon shed/corncrib and large bank barn (now on a separate parcel).

Early in January 2003, a car hit the northeast corner of the wagon shed/corncrib causing significant damage to the structural integrity of the building. Although still standing at the time of the site visit, the building was in grave danger of collapse.

8. Significance

Inventory No. F-4-49

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	
Specific dates	c.1850-1930 (4,000 BC to 1600 AD)		Architect/Builder	unknown	
Construction dates	c.1850				

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

ADDENDUM TO 1992 MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Archaeological Data Removed

European settlement of the western regions of Maryland, commonly called "the Barrens," did not begin until after 1732 following the opening to the region to settlement by the Fifth Lord Baltimore. Considering the difficulties of farming hill or mountainside land, these tracts were probably among the last to be patented. Indeed, the tract called *Health's Abode* was surveyed for Lewis Ramsburg in 1851 and included only 66 acres.² In 1862, Lewis Ramsburg's heirs conveyed the property, "beginning at a Large Rock...at the south end," to Lewis' sons Nelson and Emanuel Ramsburg.³ Three days later, the brothers took out a mortgage on the property for \$1,200, possibly for improvements to the property.⁴ The farmstead was reduced to 31 ¾ acres in 1867 through a division of the property between the brothers.⁵ An exception in the 1867 deed for a connecting road between the brother's parcels described "Nelson Ramsburg's dwelling house" and "the public road [now Crow Rock Road] passing in front of said Nelson Ramsburg's house." After Nelson's death in 1869, the farmstead was sold to pay his half of the mortgage, according

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-49

Name Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

to his Last Will and Testament.⁶ Although no deed was recorded for this conveyance, by 1878 it was owned by Philip Gaver, who conveyed the farmstead to George D. and Martha E. Gaver.⁷ This deed described the exception for the road between the Gaver farmstead (formerly Nelson Ramsburg's) and the Emanuel Ramsburg farmstead, however at this time passing "over the sawmill dam," indicating that a small sawmill and mill dam were located on the creek near the Gaver (Ramsburg) farmhouse as local tradition holds.

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead operated as a market farm throughout its 100-year occupation. Corn and hay were produced primarily as fodder for the livestock on the farm. While the horses served as the sole power on the farmstead until 1961, a small number of cows were kept for butter and milk. Apples from the orchard were reportedly taken to a cider press in the nearby hillside town of Ellerton. Hogs were kept in the frame hog pen and in a pen created within the Shelter Rock, locally known as Hog Rock for that reason. Cider, butter, milk, eggs, chickens, garden produce, and butchered hogs provided the primary cash products of this small farm. These products were carried to the Frederick market and sold.⁸

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-4-49

See original MIHP form

Geasey, Spenser O., and Hettie L. Ballweber. "Archeological Investigations at the Shelter Rock Rock Shelter (18FR431), Frederick County, Maryland." Maryland Archeology, Journal of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., March-September 1993, Vol. 29, Numbers 1 & 2.

Kavanagh, Maureen. "Archeological Resources of the Monocacy River Region." Report prepared for MHT, Frederick Co. Planning Committee, Carroll Co. Planning and Zoning. 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Approximately 20 acres

Acreage of historical setting 5 acres

Quadrangle name Myersville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is defined by the outlines of the current Parcels 18 and 208 (barn), Frederick County tax map 38, which includes the 5 acre historical setting of the building complex, the fields to the north, the spring and springhouse, and the Shelter Rock rock shelter.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.

date 14 February 2003

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-49

Name Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

¹ Spenser O. Geasey and Hettie L. Ballweber, "Archeological Investigations at the Shelter Rock Rock Shelter (18FR431), Frederick County, Maryland," Maryland Archeology, Mar-Sept 1993, Vol. 29, No. 1 & 2, pp. 1-15; and Maureen Kavanagh, "Archeological Resources of the Monocacy River Region," (report prepared for MHT, Frederick Co. Planning Commission, and Carroll Co. Planning and Zoning, 1982), pp. 71-74.

² Cited in Frederick County Deed Book BGF 7, page 538.

³ Frederick Co. Deed Book BGF 7, page 538.

⁴ Frederick Co. Deed Book BGF 7, page 539; the mortgage was released in 1870.

⁵ Frederick Co. Deed Book DSB 1, page 518.

⁶ Frederick Co. Will Book TLMc 1, page 552.

⁷ Frederick Co. Deed Book DHH 15, page 428.

⁸ Personal communication, Spenser O. Geasey, January 2003. "The Diary of Jacob Englebrecht," transcribed and published by the Frederick Historical Society, includes excellent descriptions of the Frederick market during much of the 19th century.

F-4-49
 RAUSCHER GAVEN FARMSTEAD
 FREDERICK CO., MD.
 SITE PLAN
 (NOT TO SCALE)



WOODED

WOODLOT
 (PART OF
 OLD APPLE
 ORCHARD)

HAY FIELD

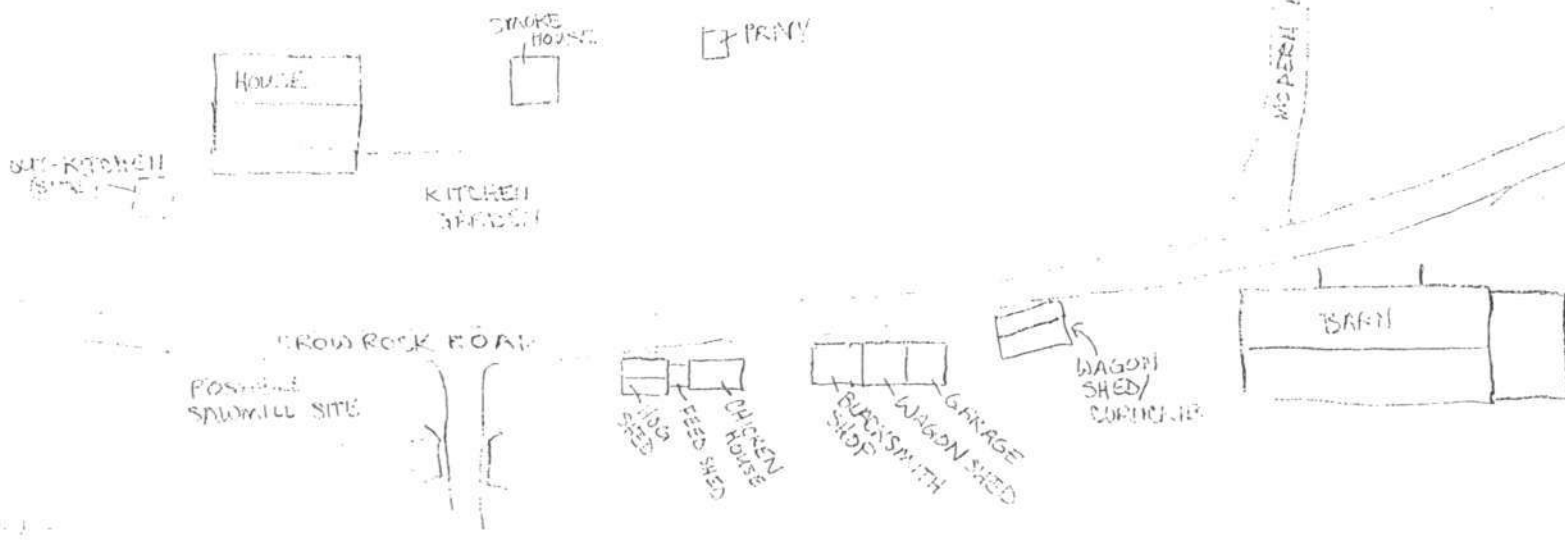
 CORN FIELD

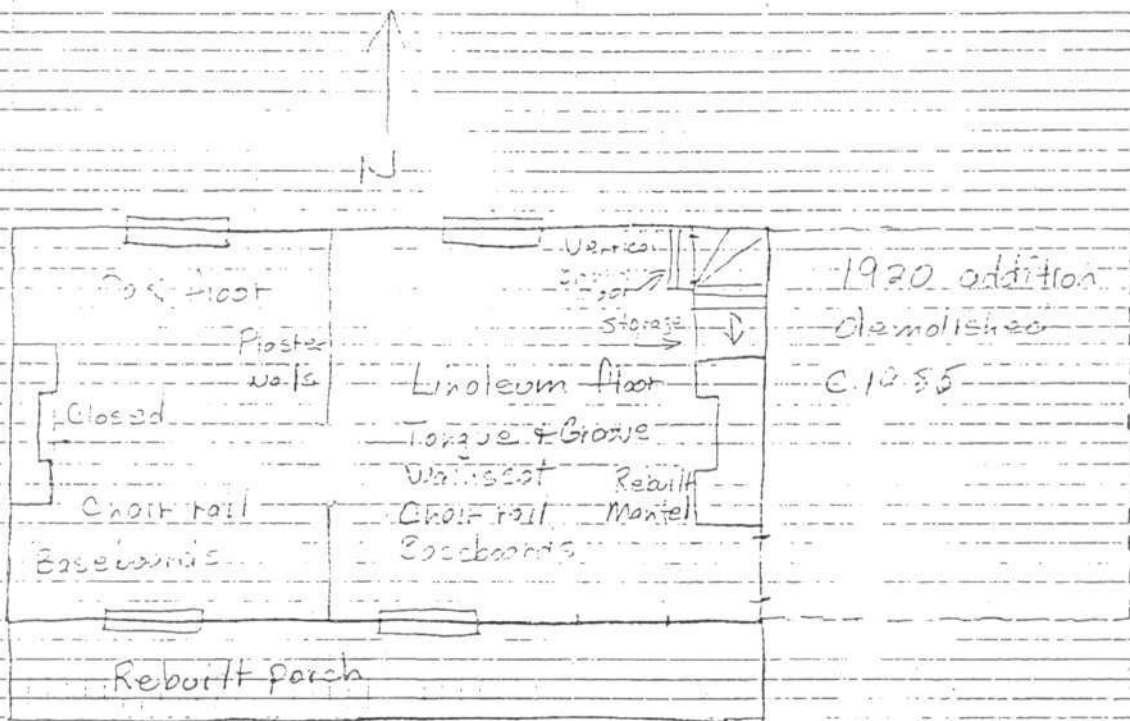
 STONE FENCE

 CORN FIELD

 HAY FIELD

WATER LINE





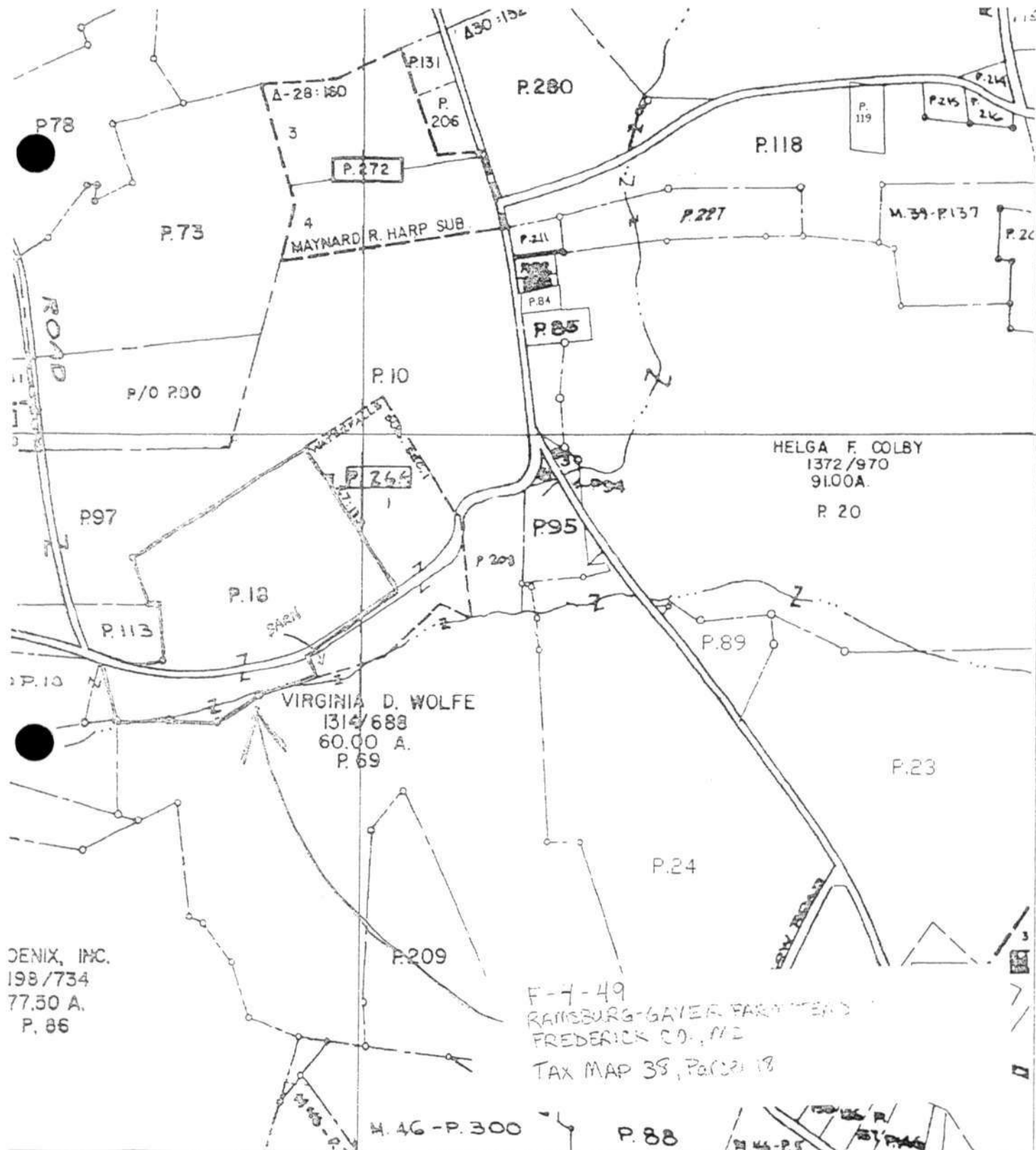
F-4-49

Ramsburg-Grier Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis

March 24, 1992

Not to Scale



DENIX, INC.
198/734
77.50 A.
P. 86

VIRGINIA D. WOLFE
1314/688
60.00 A.
P. 69

HELGA F. COLBY
1372/970
91.00A.
R. 20

F-7-49
RAMSBURG-GAYER FARMsteads
FREDERICK CO., MD
TAX MAP 38, Parcel 18

205053.9mN
356134.9mE

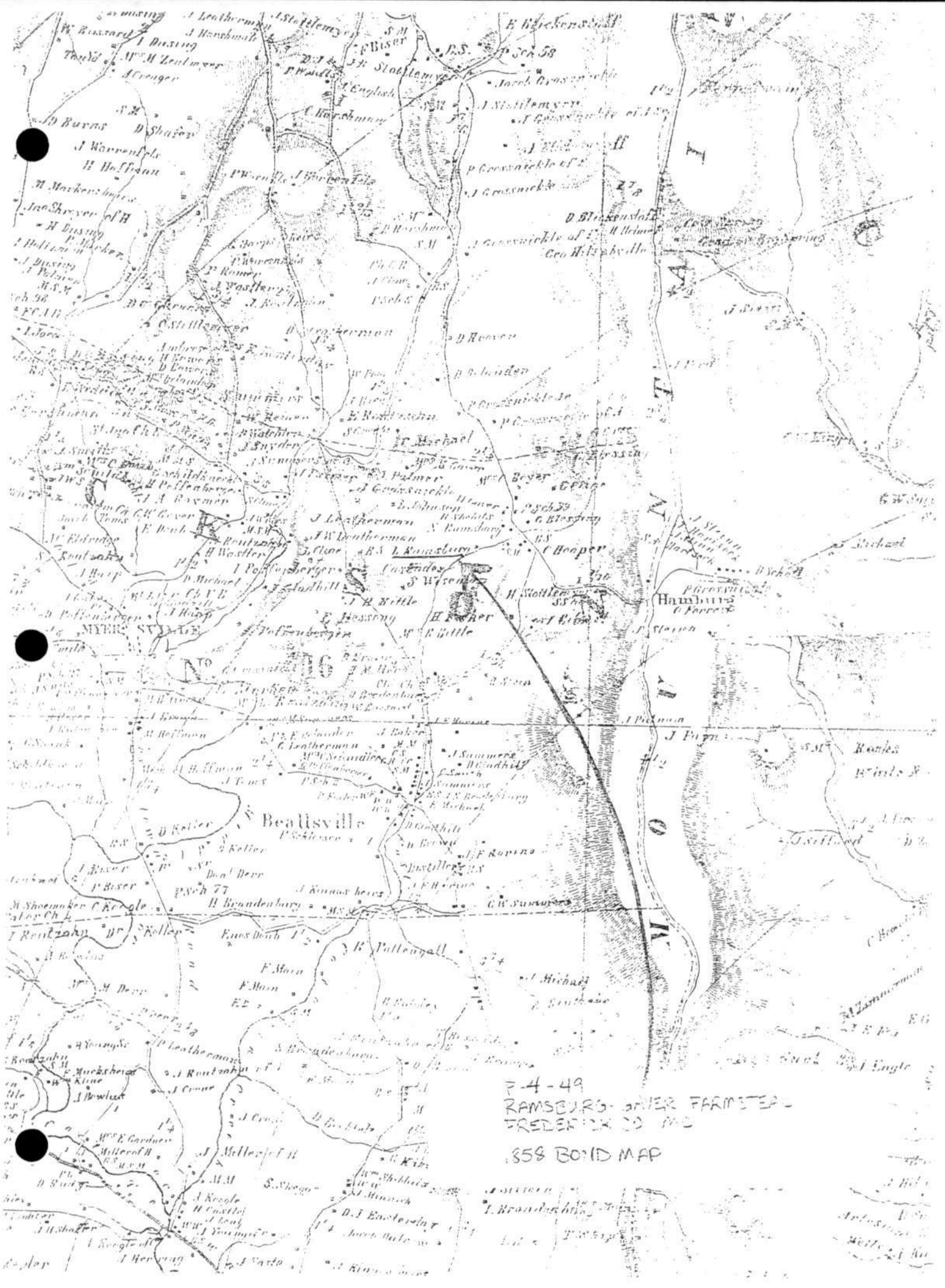
MDP

Maryland
Department of Planning

FREDERICK COUNTY,
MARYLAND

653

656



F-4-49
RAMSBURG - OTHER FARMERS -
FREDERICK CO. MD.
358 BOND MAP

JACKSON

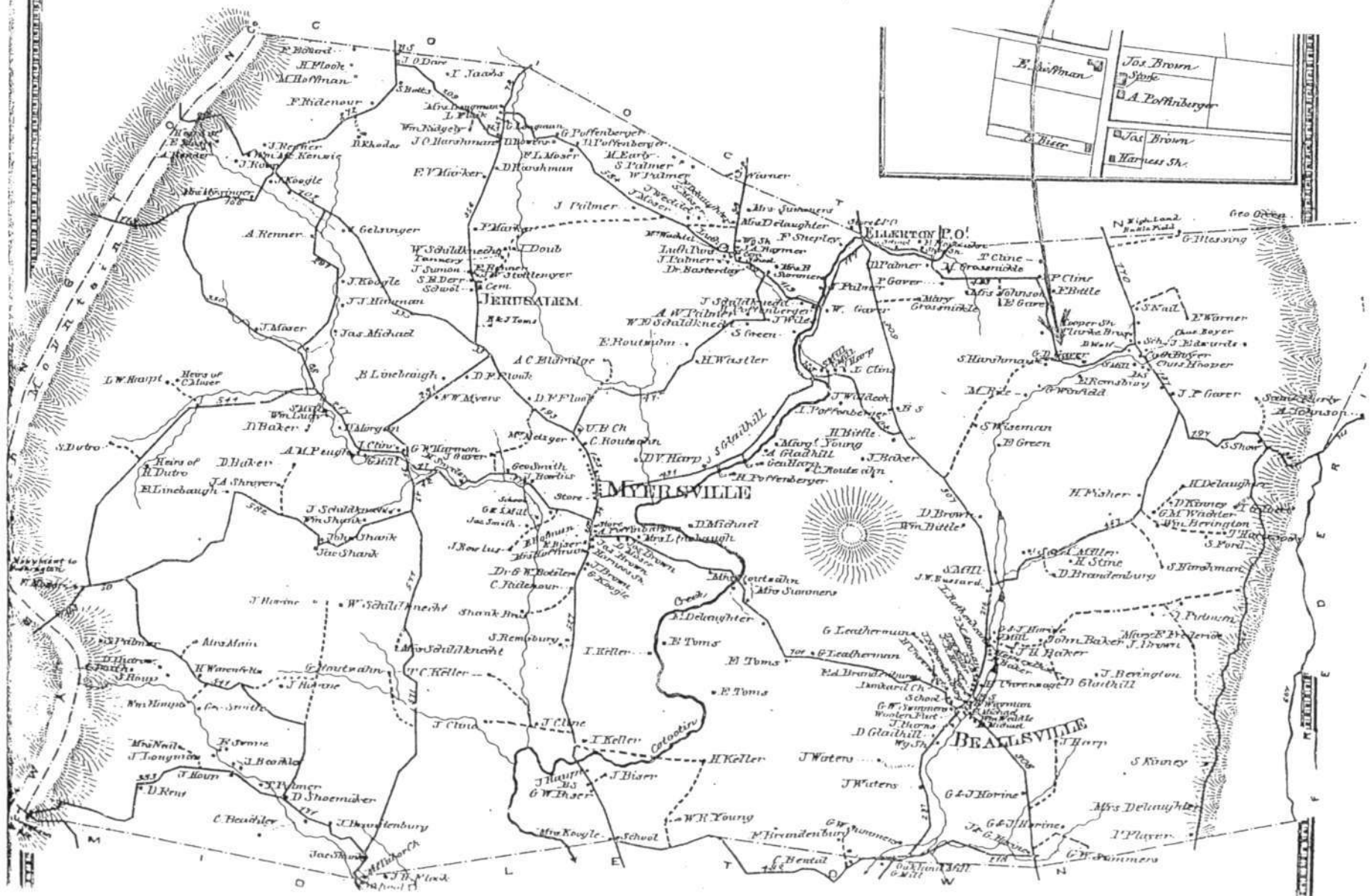
DIST No. 16

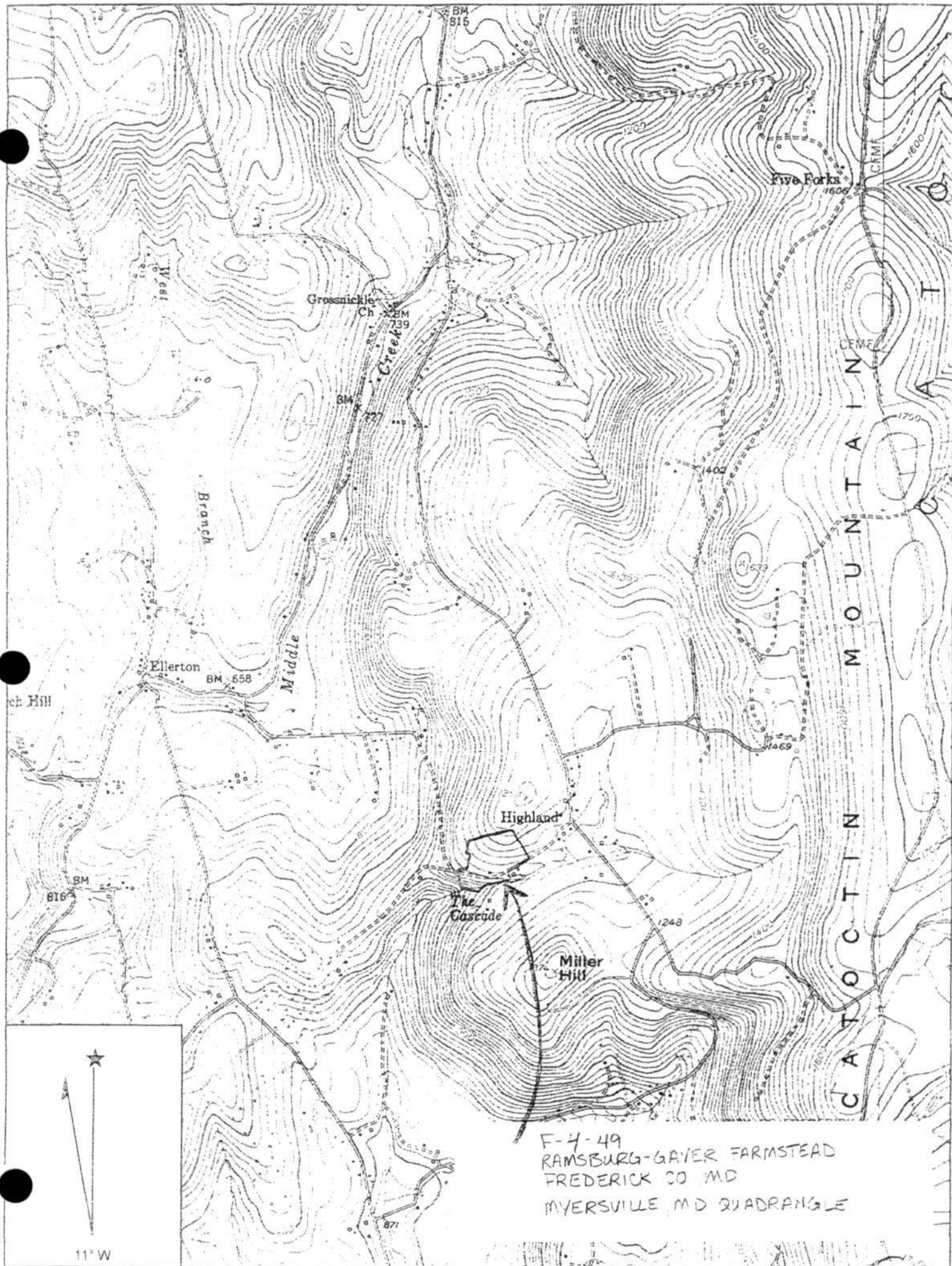
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

B. Kasper
D. Shepley
A. T. Smith
O. H. Houtzahn
J. Moser
Dr. Zimmermann
J. T. Maltbrund

P.O.
W. Brahm
J. B. B. B.
J. B. B. B.
J. B. B. B.
J. B. B. B.

F-11-49
RAMSBURG-GAVER FARMSTEAD
FREDERICK CO. MD
1875 AT 100 YARD







F-4-49

Ramsbury-Glaser Farmstead

Fredrick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPD

Overall view of NW section of farmstead, view W

1/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

View of SW section of farmstead, view W

2/25



F-4-49

Romsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Shelter Rock Rock Shelter (18FR431), view N

3/25



F-4-49

Rumbsburg - Gover Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPD

Main house and outbuildings, W and S elevations
view NE

4/25



F-4-49

Rumsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Main house, interior, first floor kitchen, view toward
NE corner

5/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg - Graver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Main house, interior, first floor parlor, view toward
SW corner

6/25



F-4-49

Rumrumburg - Gaver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

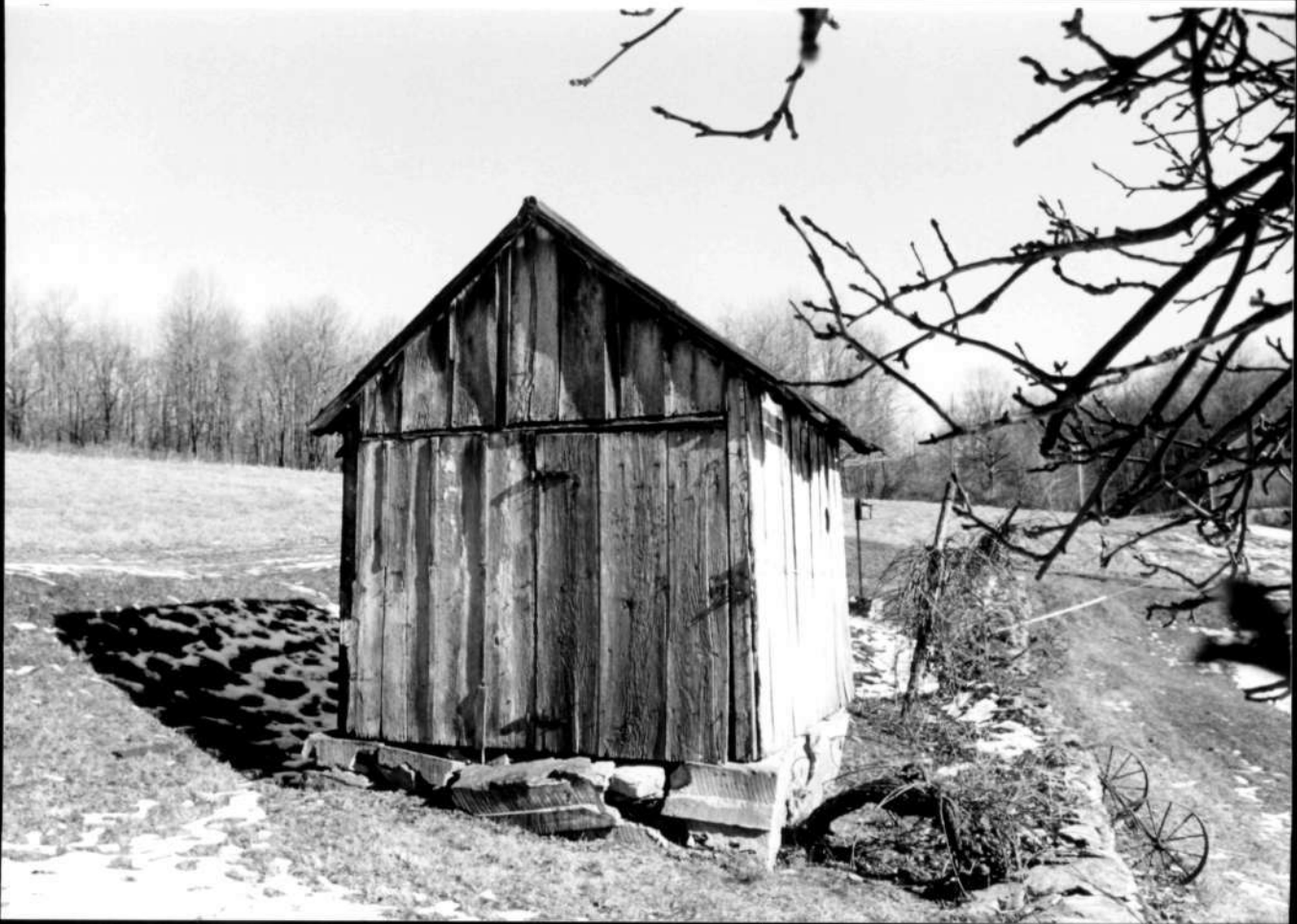
E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Smokehouse and privy, W and S elevations,
view E

7/25



F-4-49

Rumsburg-Gawer Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Smokehouse, W elevation, view E

8/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Glover Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

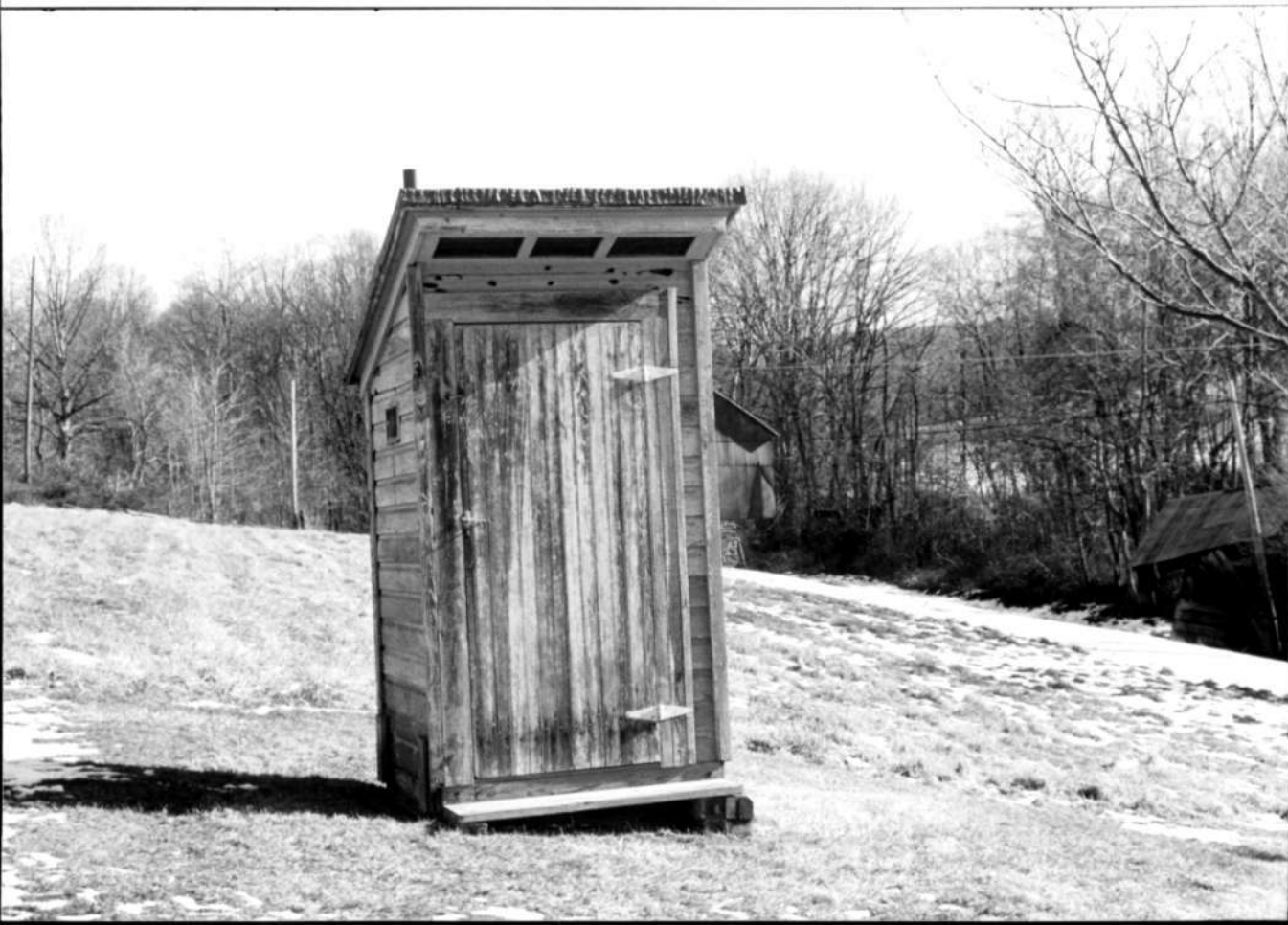
E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Smokehouse interior, E wall

9/25



F-4-49

Rumstorg - Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Privy, W elevation, view SW

10/
25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSt1PO

Springhouse, S bank of creek, view SW

11/25



F. 4-49

Ramsburg - Graver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

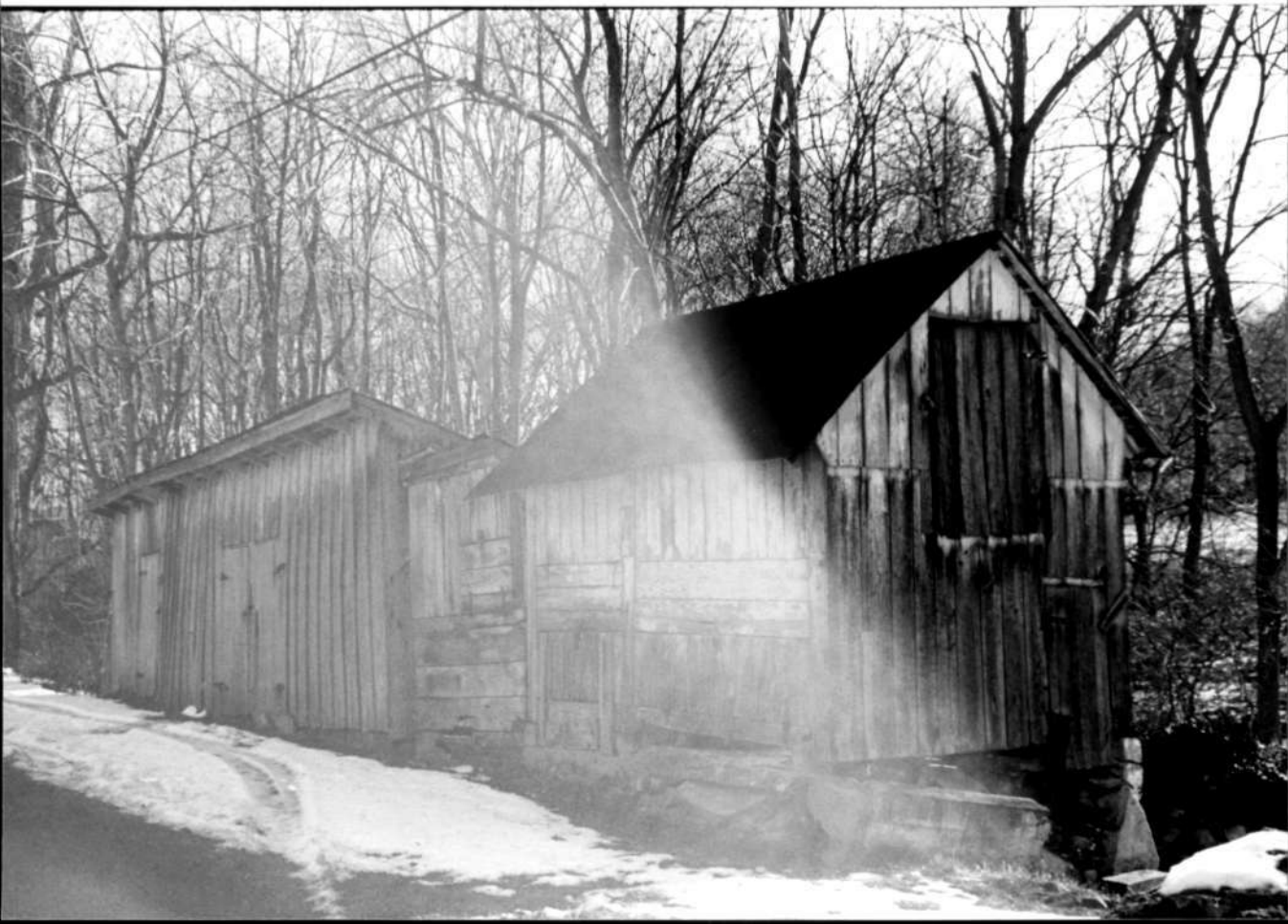
E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Hog shed / chicken house, W and S elevations, view NW

12/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg - Gauer Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Hog shed/chicken house, N and W elevations, view SW

13/25



E-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Chickenhouse interior, view SW

14/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Grauer Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

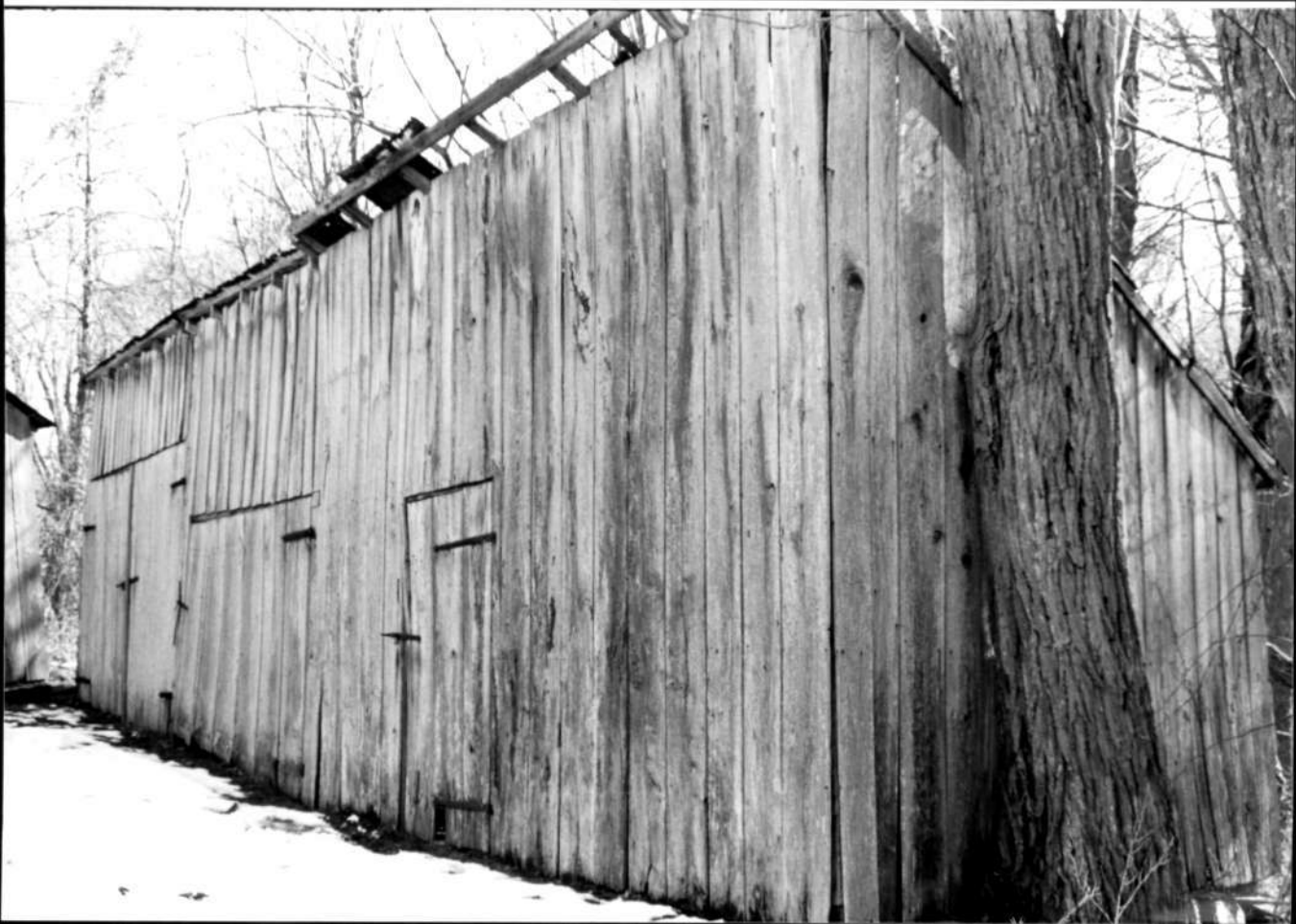
E. Wallace

1-03

MD SHPO

Blacksmith shop/Shed/garage and Wagon shed/corner ib.
W and N elevations, view SE

15/
25



F-4-219

Ramsburg-Glover Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

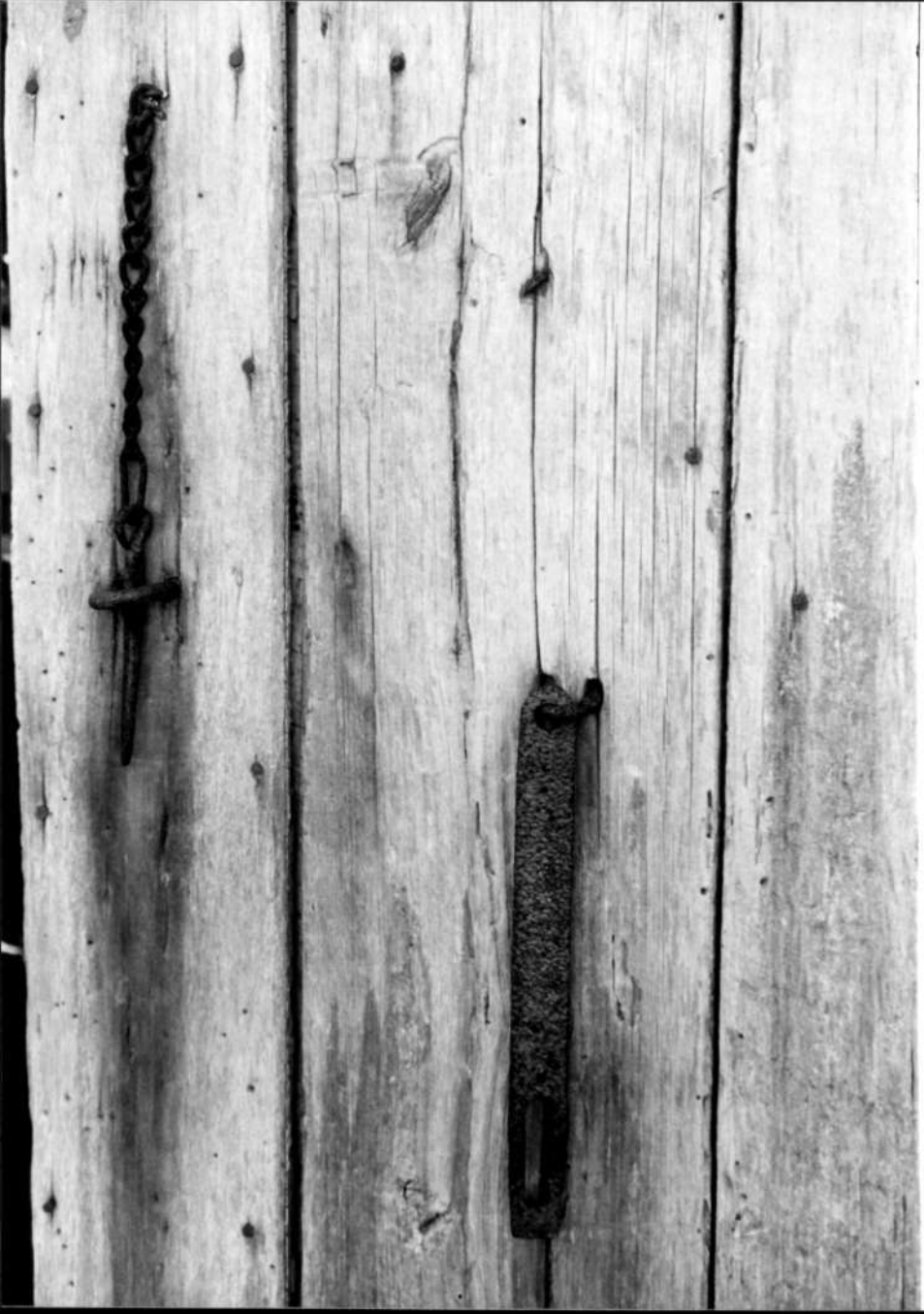
E. Wallace

1-03

MDSH PO

Blacksmith shop/shed/garage, N and W elevations,
view SE

10/
25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Blacksmith shop/shed/garage, N elevation detail
hand wrought hardware

17/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

103

MDSHPO

Blacksmith shop interior, forge remains, view toward
SW corner

18/
25



F-4-49

Ramsburg - Gaver Farms lead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHIP0

Blacksmith shop interior, S wall workspace, view
toward SE corner

19/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Wagon shed/corn crib, W elevation, showing damage
to N elevation, view W

20
/ 25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-63

MDSHPO

Wagon shed/corncrib, interior of corncrib, view W

21/25



F-4-49

Ramsberg-Graver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MD SHPO

Barn, N elevation, view W toward domestic
complex

22/
25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Barn, S elevation, view W

231

25



F 4-49

Ramsburg - Glover Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

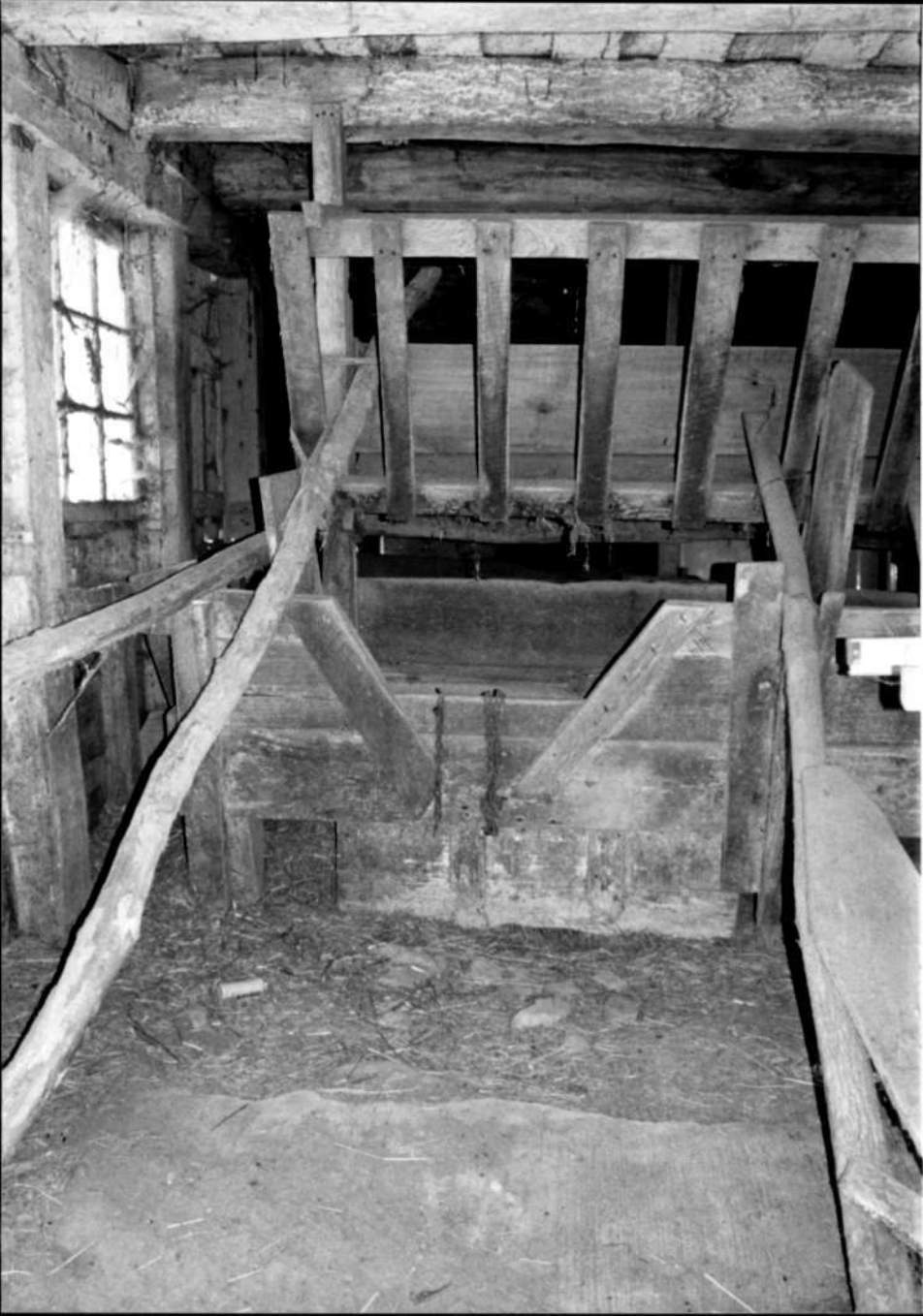
E. Wallace

1-03

MASHPO

Barn, S elevation, stalls below forebay, note split-rail ladder hanging from forebay beams, view NW

24/25



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Grayer Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

E. Wallace

1-03

MDSHPO

Barn, lower stalls interior, view toward W. wall

25/25

F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Myersville vicinity
Private

Ca. 1850-1930

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is an originally agricultural grouping centered on a circa 1850 log dwelling of two stories with a frame smokehouse, a frame privy, and a stone and frame springhouse as domestic outbuildings and an agricultural group containing a frame and stone bank barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, and two groups of frame outbuildings including a garage, wagon shed, and blacksmith shop, and a chicken house, feed shed, and hog barn. All the outbuildings except the 1850's springhouse are of the period 1875-1920. The layout of the farmstead in tight rows along the edge of the road illustrates the difficulties of mountain farming in the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The types of buildings suggest the livelihood of the occupants, which was subsistence farming, sale of surplus farm produce, and farm-related industry such as cooperage and smithing. The exposed logs of the dwelling house, which was restored in the mid-1980's, show the evidence of the german siding which covered the exterior from about the 1870's until 1985. The farmstead also contains parts of a prehistoric and historic period archeological site which has yielded rhyolite points and scatter related to a rhyolite quarry used from about 4000-2000 B.C. to about A.D. 900-1600.

F-4-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Myersville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Know Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead (preferred)

and/or common Shelter Rock Farm

2. Location

street & number 4234 Crow Rock Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Myersville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Spencer O. Geasey (see also Sect. 7 for additional owner)

street & number 4302 Crow Rock Road telephone no.:

city, town Myersville state and zip code Md, 21773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1190

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 873

city, town Frederick state Md, 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-49

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 10

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now in residential use centered on an exposed log, two-story dwelling built about 1850 with a frame smokehouse and a frame privy dating from about the last quarter of the 19th century, a stone and frame springhouse of about 1850-1870, and an agricultural grouping containing a frame and stone bank barn, a frame wagon shed/corn crib, a garage, a vehicle shed, a blacksmith shop, a chicken house and feed shed, and a hog barn, all of frame construction and dating from the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The farmstead is located on both sides of Crow Rock Road about 1/4 mile west of Highland School Road near Myersville, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling, smokehouse, and privy are located on the north side of the road and the rest of the outbuildings are arranged in a line along the south side of the road just north of a small stream. The springhouse is located west of the rest of the farmstead on the south bank of the stream.

The dwelling faces south and has a three-bay first story with the entrance in the east bay. The second story has two bays. The windows are 6/6 on the first story, with mostly original glass. The entrance has a plain surround with a paneled door with a glazed upper section. The second story windows are 6/3, reflecting the low ceiling height of the interior. Across the south elevation is a rebuilt frame porch over an exposed stone foundation which extends toward the east. A frame two-story addition built about 1920 formerly stood on the east end of the 1 section; it was demolished about 1985, leaving the concrete floor in place with the rebuilt porch wrapped around to the east elevation. The gable roof is corrugated metal and interior chimneys are located at the east and west ends. The east and west elevations each have single bays, with a window in the west end and a doorway in the east end, which formerly led into the addition. The east gable above the porch roof is covered with german siding. The north elevation has two bays on each story. The exposed log structure has been restored and plastered between the logs. The logs on all elevations have vertical channels cut into the surface which held studs to which german siding was attached, a feature which was probably added during the last quarter of the 19th century or early 20th century and removed during the 1980's rehabilitation.

The interior plan features two rooms on both stories, with a stairway in the northeast corner. The interior walls are plastered and the east room has a tongue-and-groove wainscot below a simple molded chair rail. The floor in this room is covered with linoleum. The brick fireplace has been rebuilt in an approximation of the original and has a wood stove in the opening. Between the opening and the stairway is an enclosed storage closet with whitewash on the interior walls. The west room or parlor has random width oak floors, molded baseboards, and the same molded chair rail as in the east room. The mantelpiece is a simple, vernacular style loosely based on Greek Revival designs with sections of reeding at the narrow shelf. The second floor contains two rooms and a small hall at the top of the stairway. The ceiling has been dropped somewhat from the original height to allow for insulation. The walls are also plastered with baseboards and chair rails. The

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-49

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Ca. 1850	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead is a good example of a small mountain farmstead of the 1850's through the early 20th century, containing a log dwelling with little alteration in plan and major details, a contemporary bank barn and several frame outbuildings which illustrate the self-contained existence of the period, as well as the topographical factors of mountain farming. The linear arrangement of the outbuildings in a narrow strip of land between the stream and the road indicates the need to maximize the area of cultivation within the limited acreage of the property. The farmstead also has archeological potential for information from the Late Archaic (4000-2000 B.C.) through the Late Woodland (A.D. 900-1600) periods, covering parts of Site 18FR648, a 10-acre area which has yielded rhyolite points and flakes related to a rhyolite quarry in the vicinity of Shelter Rock, an outcrop on the edge of Crow Rock Road which is included in the current parcel, but is outside the 5-acre farmstead site.

The farm may have been built by Lewis Ramsburg around 1850, as land records indicate that he had the entire tract, "Health's Abode", resurveyed on June 18, 1851. His name is shown on the Isaac Bond 1858 map, perhaps as the original dwelling on the farm. Ramsburg had another log house, possibly built in the 1860's, which was located just south of the Ramsburg-Gaver house; it was demolished in the 1960's and replaced with the existing dwelling on the neighboring parcel. In about 1870, the farmstead was sold to George D. Gaver. His brother Philip F. Gaver, purchased the property in 1878 and it remained in the Gaver family until 1983. Throughout this period of ownership, the farm remained just over 30 acres in size and the Gavers followed farming as well as related trades including cooperage, which may account for the blacksmith shop's survival. The remaining outbuildings reflect the domestic needs common to all rural properties during the period. The barn was not adapted for dairy operations as were most barns during the 1930's. Mr. Geasey, the current owner, stated that the last Gavers to occupy the farm made their living by selling surplus produce in Frederick and other towns. The barn housed horses used in farm operations and a few cows for domestic use, although eggs and butter were sold regularly. Beginning about 1913, Charles Gaver used a truck to transport his produce to market; this was probably the date that the garage was added to the wagon shed-blacksmith shop group among the outbuildings. Land records indicate that a saw mill once was located on the stream and the remains of the dam are still visible, although the date that this structure disappeared is unknown. It was certainly demolished by 1900.

(Continued on separate sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-49

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Geasey, Spencer O. personal interview, November 24, 1992
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873
(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres
Quadrangle name Myersville, Md. Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres including log house and domestic outbuildings on north side of Crow Rock Road and springhouse and agricultural buildings on south side of road on Tax Map 38, Parcel 18, including bank barn on Parcel 266.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept.	date	March 1992
street & number	12 E. Church Street	telephone	696-2958
city or town	Frederick	state	Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

doors are vertical board types with original hardware latches. The log section has never had indoor plumbing, although a water tap and outdoor sink from the demolished addition, which held the kitchen after about 1920, have been retained on the porch. The house is used by Mr. and Mrs. Geasey, the current owners, as a guest house and for occasional educational gatherings by local Scout troops.

Domestic outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located east of the house and has a generally square plan with vertical and composition siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. The door in the west elevation is vertical boards. The structure probably dates from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Privy: The frame privy is located east of the smokehouse. It has a square plan with vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. The door in the west elevation is vertical boards. The privy is also a late 19th century structure and is in deteriorated condition.

Springhouse: The stone and frame springhouse is located on the south side of the stream and Crow Rock Road about 200 feet southwest of the house. It has a stone lower section and a gable roof supported by frame gables with german siding. An overhanging eave extends on the north side of the building. The spring is located east of the structure and flows through an interior trough in the lower level. The springhouse may be an 1850's building in its original form, with the frame upper section a later addition or remodeling of the original roof.

Hog barn, chicken house, and feed shed: These three frame buildings adjoin each other on the south side of Crow Rock Road southeast of the house. Each has vertical siding with traces of whitewash visible near the eaves. The hog pen has a corrugated metal gable roof and several feeding doors which open in drop sections on the north elevation. These doors are horizontal boards. A second section next to the hog barn has a similar arrangement in a narrower facade. The chicken house has a shed corrugated metal roof with windows on the south elevation. The siding is board and battens. At the east end of the adjoining structures is a frame feed shed with board and batten siding and a vertical board door on the north elevation. This group, like the other agricultural outbuildings, dates from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Blacksmith shop, wagon shed, and garage: The second group of adjoining structures has a blacksmith shop on the west end. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. The vertical board door is on the north elevation. Inside is a stone forge and the base of the anvil with scattered metal debris. The major tools were sold at auction about 1980. The shop has no outside chimney and smoke apparently escaped through the vertical boards. The adjoining wagon shed has battens over the board siding and a single doorway on the north elevation. The last building in the adjoining group is a small garage probably added during the early 20th century. It has a single swing door on the north elevation. The wagon shed and the garage both have corrugated metal gable roofs.

7.2 Description (Continued)

Wagon shed/corn crib: The wagon shed/corn crib is located immediately east of the second group of three adjoining structures. It has vertical siding and a single corn crib on the south side. The roof is corrugated metal. Its date is probably 1875-1900.

Barn: The frame bank barn is located at the east end of the farmstead, and is currently on a separately owned parcel (parcel 266; owner: Henry V. Chase, Jr., 10803A Highland School Rd., Myersville, MD 21773). It has horizontal siding with battens on the stall level facing south, with two glazed windows in the center and vertical board doors at the each end. The exterior of the upper section is vertical and the doors at the top of the ramp on the north elevation are double swing types. The roof is corrugated metal and the west elevation is also covered with corrugated metal.

Demolished outbuildings: The farmstead once had other outbuildings which have been demolished due to extreme deterioration. A log summer kitchen stood near the southwest corner of the dwelling and was demolished about 1985. A frame woodshed was located on the south side of Crow Rock Road directly south of the house and next to the driveway to the property on the south side of the stream. It was damaged by flooding and was removed during the 1980's.

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-49

8.1 Significance (Continued)

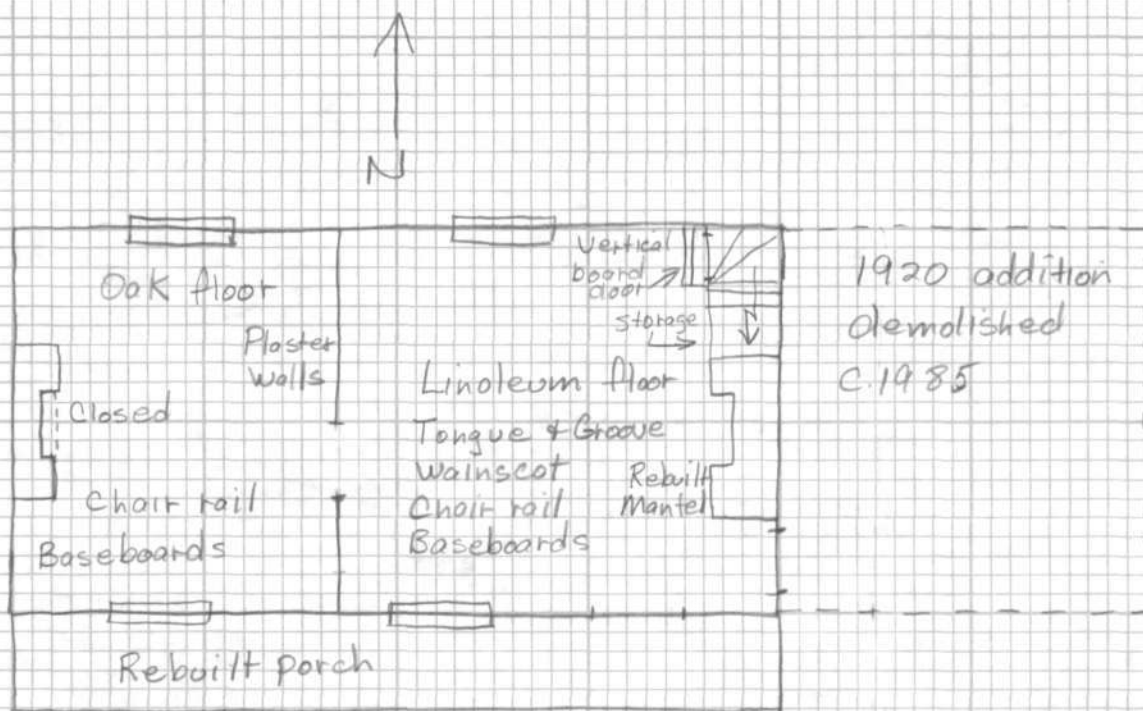
The Frederick County Landmarks Foundation has placed a registry plaque, No. 227, on the log house in recognition of its historic character.

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-49

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

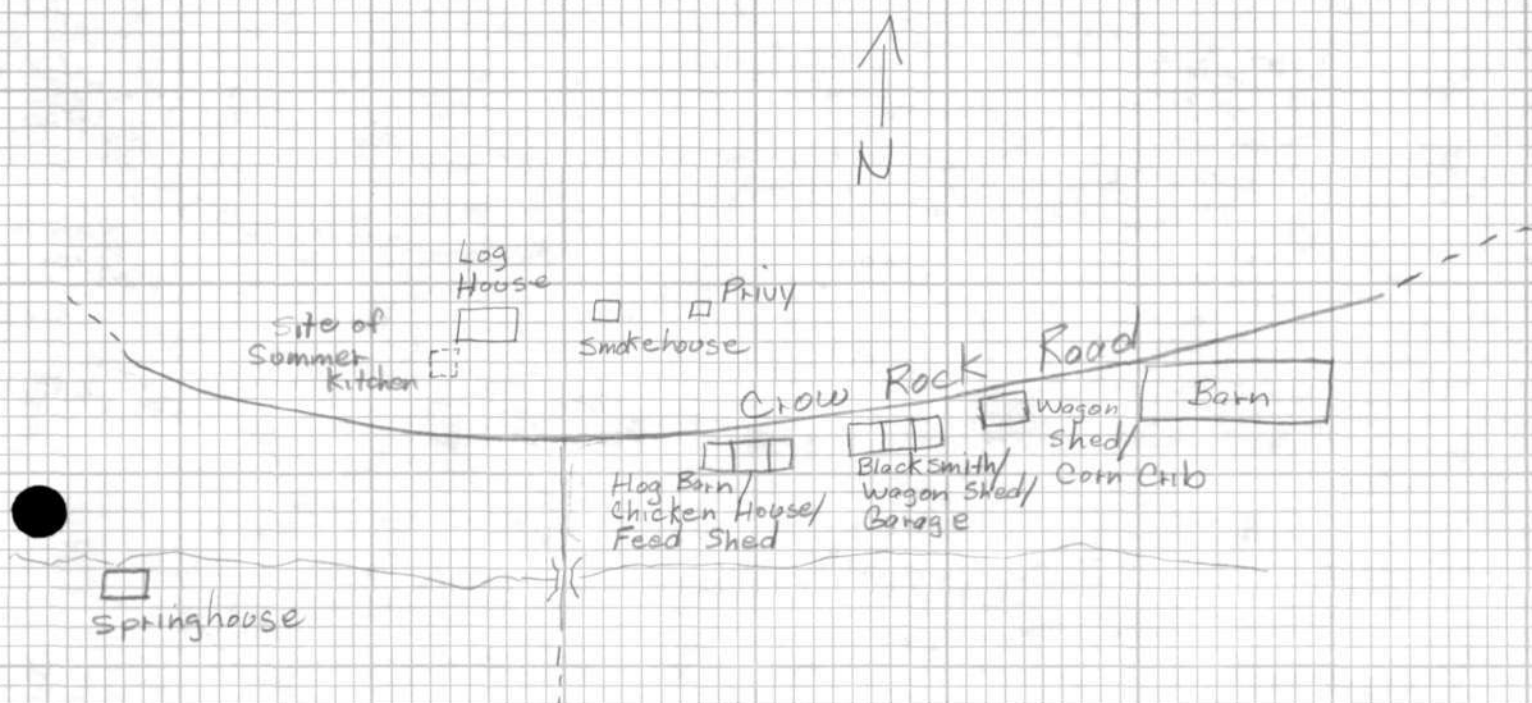
Williams, T.J.C. and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910.
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 1605-1606.



F-4-49
 Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
 Frederick County

Janet Davis
 March 24, 1992

Not to Scale



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gover Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis

March 24, 1992

Not to Scale

LIBER/Folio	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1190/873 (1440/520) 10 Feb 83	Spencer O. & Nancy O. Heasey	Melvin Schmeering, serv. pers. rep. of estate of Charles R. Gauer, dec. 22 Jan. 62 (Natie B. Gauer died 22 May 81) 2nd wife of Charles Gauer	20.01 A.	\$40,000	
324/569 29 Mar 13	Charles R. & Mary M. Gauer	Jerome E. & Cordelia Gauer	"Heath's Abode" mentions "old mill dam" in descr. & 31 1/4 A. "saw mill dam" "D.M. Wolfe's shop"	\$2,500	
HWB 302/517 31 Mar 03	Jerome E. & Cordelia Gauer	Phillip F. Gauer & Ann E. Gauer	"Heath's Abode" 31 1/4 A. mentions saw mill dam & D.M. Wolfe's shop	\$1,900	
DHH 15/428 8 Apr 1878 (recorded 4 Dec 1902)	Philip F. & Ann E. Gauer (brother of George D. Gauer)	George D. Gauer & Martha E. Gauer	"Heath's Abode" (see) 31 1/4 A. "saw mill dam & D.M. Wolfe's shop" mentioned	\$1,300	
	George D. & Martha E. Gauer	Emanuel Ramsburg, exec. of last will of Nelson Ramsburg, dec.			
DSB 1/518 26 Apr 1867	Nelson Ramsburg	Emanuel & Sarah A. Ramsburg	"Heath's Abode" resurveyed for Lewis Ramsburg on 18 June 1851 31 1/4 A. except road to Nelson Ramsburg's dwelling	\$1,250	
BGF 7/538 7 Jun 1862	Nelson Ramsburg & Emanuel Ramsburg	Samuel Cline & Anna M. Cline et al (heirs of Lewis Ramsburg, dec.)	"Heath's Abode" (see) 66 A.	\$2200	

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German Reformed,
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Wright Shop.

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and G S M or S

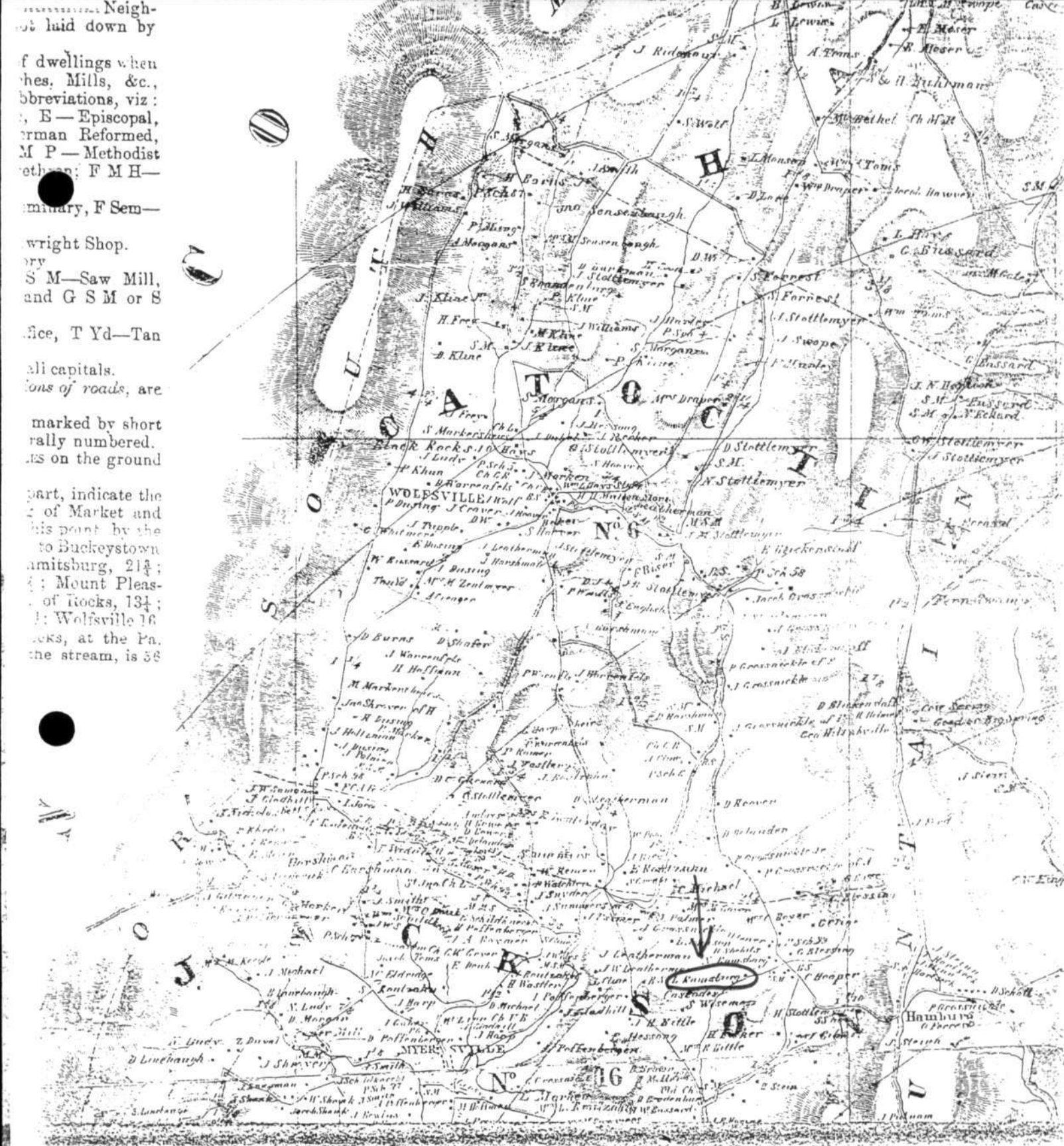
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Wolfsville 16
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the stream, is 56



F-A-49

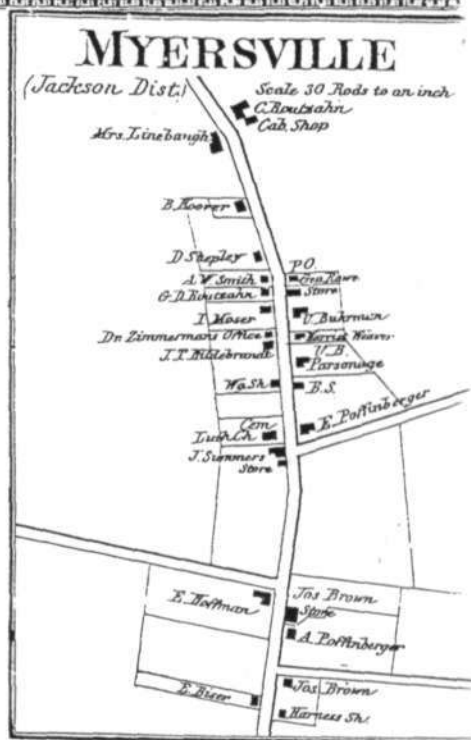
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick County

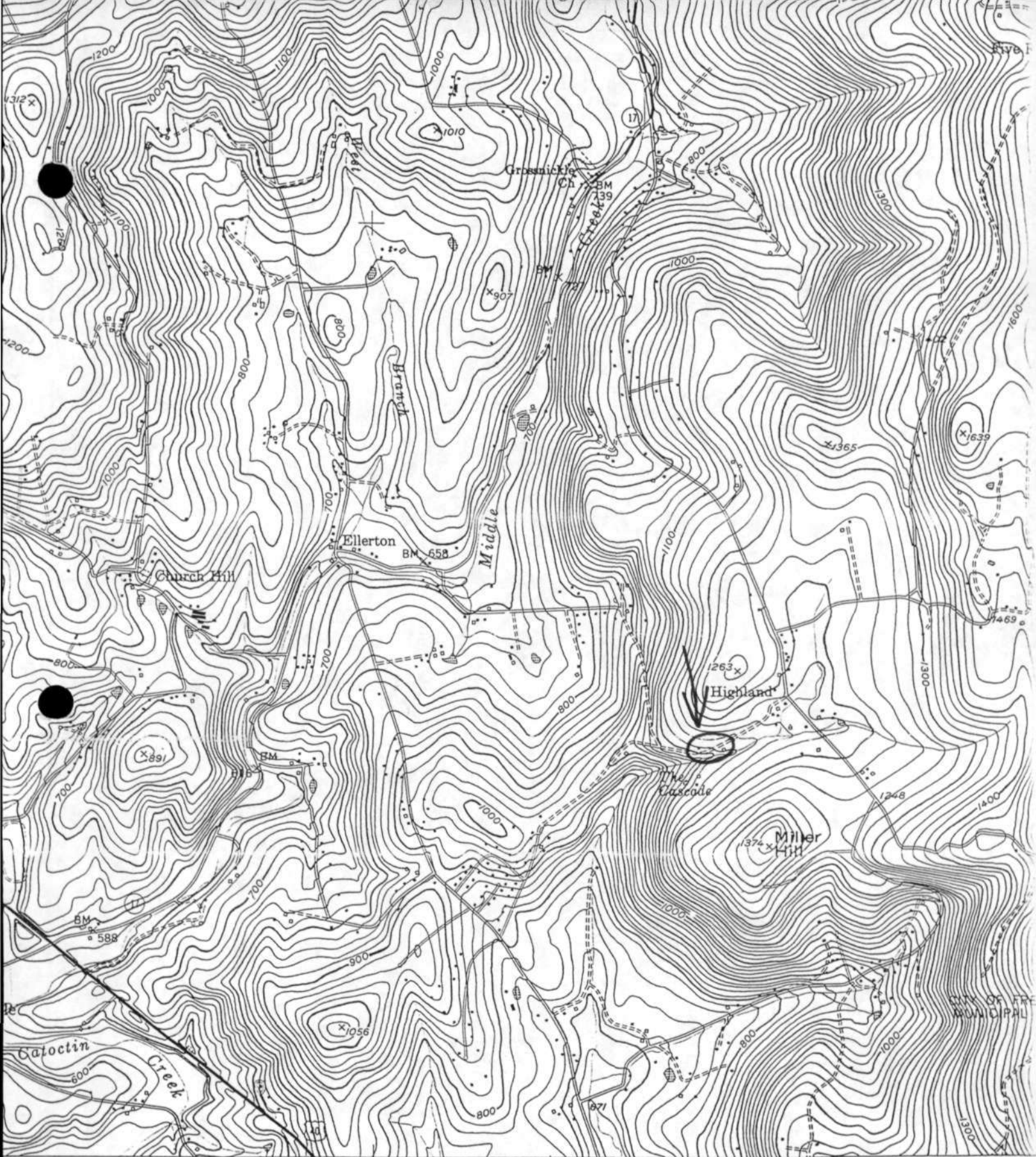
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick

County, 1858.

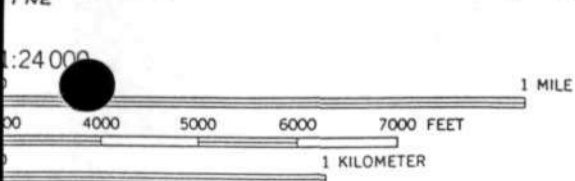
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



F-4-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873.



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F-4-49
Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Myersville, Md.
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F-4-49.

Ramsburg - Gaver Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

South elevation

1/8



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northwest corner view

2/8



F-4-49

Ramsburg - Gover Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Parlor

3/8



F.4-49

Ramsburg-Gover Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Kitchen fireplace and stair

4/8



F-4-49

Ramsburg - Gaver Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Second floor hall and chambers

5/8



F-4-49

Rainsburg-Gover Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Feed shed, chicken house, hog barn (L to R)
north elevation

6/8



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gover Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib, garage, wagon shed,
blacksmith shop (L to R), view from
west

7/8



F-4-49

Ramsburg-Gaver Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis
March 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Barn, south elevation

8/8